

STATE SENATOR • MARTHA G. SCOTT

Scott Press Release



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SCOTT PROUD TO SPONSOR BILL IN PACKAGE THAT ESTABLISHES BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES

Bipartisan Package Will Strengthen Emergency Management & Homeland Security

LANSING – State Senator Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park) joined fellow state lawmakers and fire fighting professionals today in the Michigan capitol to announce a legislative package that would establish a new Bureau of Fire Services within the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) intended to consolidate fire fighting resources and promote more effective and efficient fire fighting techniques.

“I am proud to be a part of this bipartisan effort that will provide greater protections for the citizens of Michigan,” said Sen. Scott. “The hard working men and women in the fire industry deserve the support and responsiveness of their elected officials in Lansing.”

The 25-bill package will, amongst other things, establish a Bureau of Fire Services headed by the State Fire Marshall. The legislation follows an executive directive issued last November by Governor Granholm ordering that planning begin immediately on a new agency that would be responsible for the fire service related aspects of the state’s homeland security and emergency response.

Sen. Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming), the lead author of the bill package, worked diligently with those in firefighting services to bring this package to the legislature. He and other lead sponsors recognize the vital role that Michigan’s firefighters, fire chiefs, and other members of fire service play in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of citizens all across this state.

This package of bills will codify the Governor's earlier Executive Directive to consolidate resources and strengthen Michigan’s emergency management and homeland security efforts.

The highlights of the legislative package are as follows:

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- Establishes the Bureau of Fire Services within DLEG and transfers the duties of the State Fire Marshall to the newly created office.
- Recognizes the act creating the Arson Strike Force Unit.
- Transfers the Fire Fighting Training Council to the Bureau of Fire Services.
- Requires that local units of government apply to the Bureau of Fire Services for permits to process fireworks.
- Provides tort damage immunity to firefighting instructors.

The intent of the legislative package is to help strengthen Michigan's emergency management and homeland security efforts by improving communication and coordination amongst our state's fire fighting services, with the goal of better protecting lives and safeguarding property.

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Senator Scott represents the 2nd Senate District, which includes areas of Detroit and the cities of Hamtramck, Harper Woods, Highland Park and all of the Grosse Pointes. She serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee.